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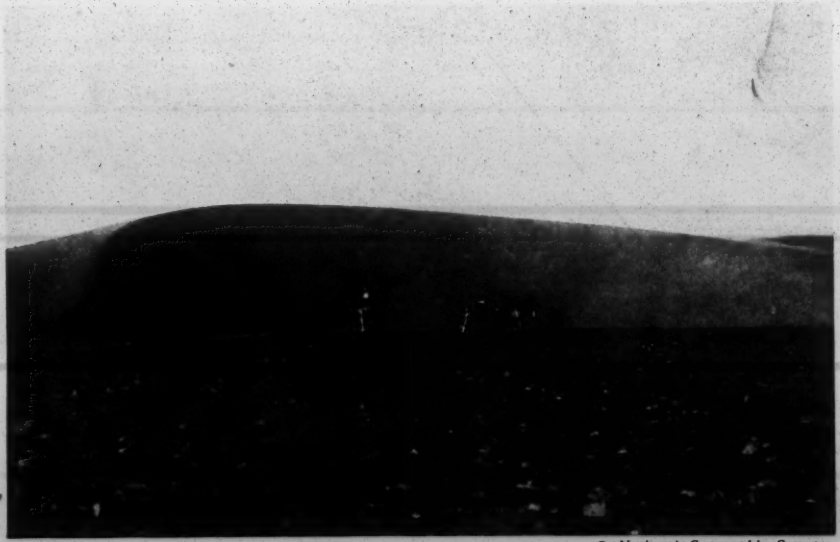

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A WANDERING SAND HILL IN THE LIBYAN DESERT

(See Bulletin No. 4)

HOW TO OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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Hilo, Beautiful but Exciting Second City of the Hawaiian Islands

HILO, second city of the Hawaiian Islands, has had an exciting time of it recently. First, one of its municipal volcanoes, Mauna Loa, burst into eruption. A fountain of lava spouted out and rushed down the mountain side. This display began with an earthquake. A few days later one of the worst forest fires in recent years threatened the whole city. Although 800 volunteer fire fighters combated the blaze on a 14-mile front, cable messages report that only a change in wind saved Hilo. No sooner was the forest fire over than Mauna Loa sprang into action again, sending big red tongues of lava into the valleys.

Hiloans claim that their city is the most beautiful in the islands; and it would be difficult to find a more ideal setting. The shores of a broad bay sweep away on both sides of the town. In the foreground as one approaches from the sea is an idyllic tropic islet that its discoverer might have been forgiven for naming "Enchanted Isle" but which in matter-of-fact English is called "Coconut Island." Back of the city and its bay fringed with tropical verdure rise the highlands of the interior to their apex in Mauna Kea, often snow-capped, the highest of island peaks. To the right numerous streams rush to the sea, several of them leaping down in graceful waterfalls.

The Gateway to Two World Wonders

Hiloans live next door to two of the world's greatest land wonders—the active volcanoes, Kilauea and Mauna Loa. They have not suffered from their nearness, and have profited because their city is the gateway through which thousands of visitors pass to view these "tame volcanoes." An excellent automobile highway leads from Hilo through a majestic forest of tree-ferns to a hotel on the brink of Kilauea, about 30 miles away; and a supplemental road actually descends into the huge crater so that motor cars may be driven to the very brink of the bubbling lake of molten lava in the smaller, interior crater.

The highway continues to Mauna Loa from which have come the great lava flows of prehistoric and historic times. These flows have built up Hawaii, youngest and largest of the islands of the Hawaiian group, and make it still an island "in process of manufacture." The latest of these lava flows occurred in 1919 when a river of molten stone rushed down the mountain on the opposite side of the island from Hilo and plunged hissing into the sea. For many days the waters bubbled, while steam clouds rose. Fish, boiled to a turn, floated nearby and could be picked up and eaten by those venturesome enough to row into the hot waters near the fiery cataract.

When the Princess Saved Hilo

In 1880 when Hilo was still largely a native town, its existence was threatened by one of the greatest flows Mauna Loa has ever sent forth. Slowly the white-hot stream advanced straight for the town until it was less than two miles away. The people were panic-stricken and as a last resort appealed to the only surviving princess and priestess of their greatest royal line. She took her stand a mile from the town and declared the flow would stop there. It did.

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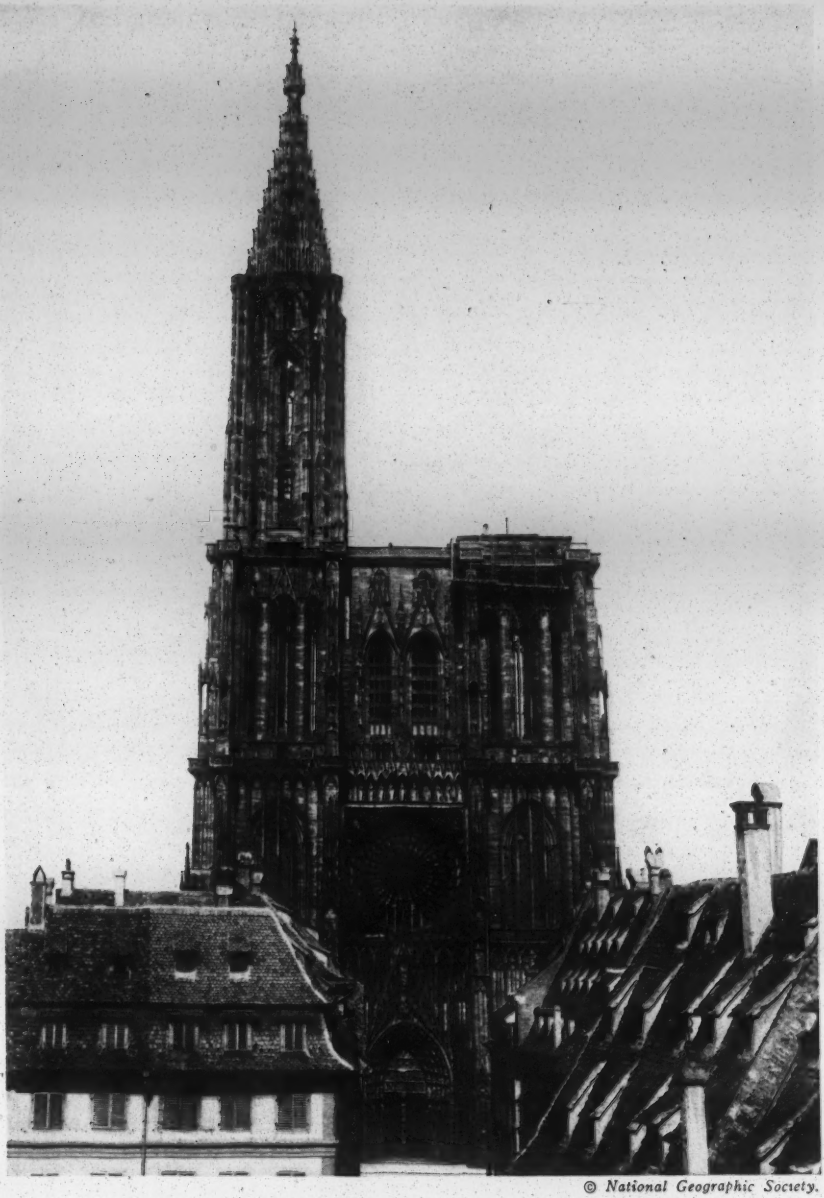

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STRASBOURG CATHEDRAL, THE MOST FAMOUS BUILDING IN ALSACE

This ancient church, which in its present form represents the activities of four centuries, is built of red sandstone. Upon the three noble porches of the facade is recorded in stone the history of the Creation and Redemption. Among the churches of France, its north tower, rising to a height of 465 feet, is exceeded only by that of Rouen (see Bulletin No. 5).

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The Geography of Modesty

WHAT is modesty in dress?

Modesty has a geography all its own, a study of customs around the world shows.

A Chinese woman would not think of exposing to the public gaze her bound feet. A lady of Yap would never be seen promenading down the mud-hut boulevard of her native village without her woven necklace of hibiscus leaves. The Mohammedan woman of a few years ago would not be seen without her veil.

Keep Finger Tips Hidden

Alexander von Humboldt, who traveled extensively over the world known in the eighteenth century, recorded in his travels that some of the central Asian peoples are reluctant to let any one see their finger tips. A traveler who visited the Alaska coast, in the same century, found that native women, after he had persuaded them to remove an ornament which made the lower part of the mouth protrude two or three inches, were greatly embarrassed.

Vanity the Originator of Clothes

It seems queer that clothes originated out of the desire for ornament rather than for warmth. Arabs of the hot deserts of Arabia and Africa are fully swathed in flowing garments, which only in part serve as protection from the heat. Yet the Patagonians, from the coldest portion of the South American continent, wear only the skin of one animal as a kind of wind-shield. Our word, modesty, came from the Latin *modus*, meaning measure or standard, and the clothing which was customarily worn therefore became our first conception of what was the proper or "modest" thing to wear. Each of the world's peoples has its own standards.

The Chinese women are among the most demure and modest in the world, but they wear trousers! And, furthermore, some of them would be horrified at the immodesty of a skirt.

The beaches of American seaside resorts would pain the Sumatra and Celebes savages who consider it highly improper to expose the knees.

Why a Breton Girl Wears a Close Cap

In one of the New Hebrides Islands in the Pacific, a married woman can be modest only by being snaggle-toothed. Part of the wedding ceremony consists of relieving the lady of her two middle incisors by smashing them with a rock.

Some of the Mohammedan women of the Sahara region will tear off their last garment to cover their faces upon the approach of a stranger. The demure Breton maiden wears a cunning little close cap, because it would be dreadfully immodest to uncover her hair. Sturdy German peasant women paddle around their homes and fields in dresses that just escape their knees, but they would be shocked at the idea of wearing a dress which was open at the neck.

There are Hawaiians who maintain still that Hilo was saved from destruction only because Pele, goddess of the volcano, stopped her fires when her daughter interceded.

Bulletin No. 1, May 10, 1926.

For Further Reading

Teachers who wish to use this Bulletin for project or reading assignment will find allied subject matter and illustrations in the following National Geographic Magazine article: "The Hawaiian Islands. America's Strongest Outpost of Defense—The Volcanic and Floral Wonderland of the World," by Gilbert Grosvenor, 134 illustrations, February, 1924, pp. 115–238.

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A SPOUTING FOUNTAIN OF LAVA AT MAUNA LOA, HAWAII ISLAND

Recently this active volcano has been sending up new fountains of molten rock like the one in the illustration. People in the city of Hilo can watch the glare of the eruption at night because the stream of lava down the mountain-side is blood red and fluid as water.

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The Lapps, to Whom Boundaries Mean Little

THE man who fixed a new industry in Lapland has recently died.

Hjalmar Lundbolm, a Swedish pioneer, has been credited with the successful organization of the Kiruna iron mines. Kiruna can be found on the maps in the far north of Sweden. It is beyond the arctic circle.

While Lundbolm developed a community where many Lapps lived permanently the typical Lapp people are nomads. The Lapps are bred-in-the-bone intrnationalists. Like the Papago Indians of Arizona and Mexico and the forest dwellers along the Brazilian-Peruvian line, they have a lofty disregard for political boundaries. The Lapps not only cross as they see fit, but take great herds of reindeer with them, pasturing them today in Sweden and tomorrow in Norway.

Lapps Small in Stature

The Lapland of the maps spreads into four distinct countries: Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia. Once the Lapps paid no attention whatever to any boundary lines in their region. But Russian and Finnish boundaries were eventually closed officially against Norway and Sweden; and while some straggling still takes place, the larger movements were stopped. Norway and Sweden, however, know of the needs of their nomadic joint-citizens. They have a treaty agreement whereby Lapps may cross from Sweden in summer and move to Norway's northwest coast. In the winter they may cross from Norway to inland Sweden.

Aside from the real dwarf peoples, such as the pygmies of central Africa, the Lapps are the smallest people in the Eastern Hemisphere. Their average height is in the neighborhood of four feet seven inches—a physical condition ascribed to the age-long wanderings of their ancestors in the frozen, cheerless region of the north. It has even been suggested that the Lapps were the first inhabitants of the frozen zone after the great glacial sheet of the Ice Age receded and made Northern Europe habitable. Many centuries ago they are supposed to have lived throughout the Scandinavian peninsula, but with the arrival of other peoples they were forced farther north.

Reindeer a Lapp's General Store

The reindeer is the typical animal of Lapland, and about it their life has centered for ages. It carries them upon its back and draws their loads, gives them milk and cheese and meat for food, clothes them with its skins, and furnishes materials for implements and utensils from its bones. The typical life of a Laplander has ever been that of a nomadic herder, living in tents and following his herds to new locations when seasonal changes and pasturage necessities dictated.

The Lapps have been decreasing in numbers in late years, and "Lapland" is now far from being a land peopled predominantly by Lapps, and still less by Lapp nomads. In Swedish Lapland, for example, only about seven per cent of the inhabitants are Lapps. It is the pushing in of a more settled people that has made life so hard for the roving aborigines. And there has been a desertion of nomadism by some Lapps. Where once "Lapp" and "reindeer herdsman" were synonymous, there are now numerous settled, agricultural Lapps; and

Tattoo Is South Sea Island "Garment"

In the Tonga Islands a man would consider himself thoroughly unprepared to appear before his fellow mortals unless he was tattooed, and the Marquesans follow much the same practice, the amount of the decoration varying with the rank of the individual, but the legs are always tattooed from ankle to thigh. Warriors have themselves done in geometrical designs with squares and inverted triangles on their faces, and the women are ornamented in patterns which resemble fine lace-work. Some of them wear loin cloths and girdles of tapa cloth, a fabric made from the bark of the breadfruit tree.

Bulletin No. 2, May 10, 1926.

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A PATAGONIAN WOMAN DRESSED IN SKINS

The Patagonian Indians are living examples of the fact that clothes are for ornament first and utility afterwards. The chief protection of a Patagonian is a single skin which he shifts to the windward side. Contrast with the heavy clothes of the desert Arab.

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Libya, Visited by Mussolini

AFTER seeing Tripoli and its environs on a five-day tour Premier Mussolini declared that Italian Libya had the possibility of developing into another California.

Ever since Italy took over the colony from Turkey, Italian statesmen and writers have been enthusiastic over its prospects. Their hopes were based upon the supposition that the Tripolitania coast under the Roman Empire was a province of flourishing agriculture and enormous wealth. There can be no doubt that Libya once saw better days. The ruins of Roman villas and castles are common in the countryside.

Two reasons account for the decline of Libya. First is the fact that irrigation and the storing of water require a strong government and a long period of peaceful development. This the Italian Government seems to be providing. The second factor is beyond the power of man to change. Many geographers are convinced that a change of climate has made Tripolitania and other sections of northern Africa drier than they were in the time of the Romans.

Libya and her agricultural development are summarized in the following communication to the National Geographic Society:

"Italian Libya is not a geographical unity, but consists of two regions. Tripolitania, or Tripoli proper, and Fezzan form one province. Cyrenaica is the other sector of Libya. Tripoli is the capital of the Tripolitania.

Two Inhabitants Per Square Mile

"Tripolitania occupies the land along the Mediterranean Sea from the Tunisian frontier to the Gulf of Sidra. From the coast southward, with an average width of 40 miles, runs a plain called Jefara. At its southern border rises with a steep ascent a chain of mountains commonly called the Jebel, of which the most famous part is Jebel Gharian. These mountains form a sort of tableland, which slopes slightly southward till it reaches the Hamada-el-Homra, a flat, rocky plateau of about 40,000 square miles, covered with little red stones, absolutely dry and arid. In the south of the Hamada is the district of Fezzan, a collection of oases in a country of dunes and desert. Fezzan forms a wedge of sparsely inhabited land into the great Sahara.

"Cyrenaica is a projection into the Mediterranean between the gulfs of Sidra and Solum. A section through its center from north to south shows a small plain along the coast; then a steep ascent, which leads to a plateau. This is bounded southward by a second ascent. Behind this a great plain opens, running southward to the Libyan Desert.

"What is the population now inhabiting Libya, that immense area of 400,000 square miles? No exact census exists, but all competent observers agree that it hardly exceeds 800,000. That means about two inhabitants to the square mile. The 'sessile' or settled population inhabits an area of about 19,000 square miles; that means, roughly, the twenty-first part of the whole land.

Homes and Synagogue Under Ground

"The population of the city of Tripoli consists of about 60,000 inhabitants.

others who fish for a living. Some have turned miner in the rich iron fields of Swedish Lapland.

Lapps Helped to Establish Reindeer in Alaska

Christianity was taken to the Lapps only in the last few centuries. There are observers who still question whether their somewhat confused ideas are more strongly marked by Christian or pagan practices. It is told of those along the coast that they make offerings at the shrine of Boris Glob when starting on a fishing expedition. If they are unsuccessful they straightway take back their offerings! These same Russian Lapps, up to a few decades ago, preferred to steal their brides from an enemy or a stranger rather than obtain her by purchase or persuasion.

The United States is largely indebted to Lapps for an important and rapidly growing industry. The first efforts to introduce reindeer into Alaska were not very successful because of a lack of expert knowledge in breeding, and herd management. Several score Lapps were induced to go to Alaska to take charge of the enterprise in 1898, and their skill gave reindeer raising there a great boost. The natives learned from the Lapps, and now hundreds of thousands of reindeer in Alaska are turning otherwise useless moss into food and clothing materials for the Territory and "the States" as well.

Bulletin No. 3, May 10, 1926.

For Further Reading

Teachers who wish to use this Bulletin for project or reading assignment will find allied subject matter and illustrations in the following National Geographic Magazine articles: "The Races of Europe," by Edwin A. Grosvenor, L.H.D., LL.D., December, 1918, 62 illustrations, 2 page maps, pp. 441–533. "The Murman Coast: Arctic Gateway for American and Allied Expeditionary Forces in Northern European Russia," April, 1919, 30 illustrations, 1 half-page map, pp. 331–348.

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LADIES OF LAPLAND

The two women with the tall hats are married. Those with the scarfs are debutantes. The youngest, the one with the striped waist, is fifteen years of age. The Lapps are a seminomadic people, depending largely on their reindeer herds for food and winter clothing. They comprise a large element of the population of the Murman region.

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France's Rewon Provinces, Alsace and Lorraine

ALSACE-LORRAINE, autonomous, possessing her own parliament and enjoying home rule is one of the results of the World War.

Now France proposes to bring Alsace in closer touch with France by correcting geography. The Vosges mountains, a range which compares in height with the Blue Ridge in the United States, is a barrier between northeast France and Alsace. Two French railroad lines penetrate Alsace and circle the ends of the mountains, one by way of Belfort and the other by way of Avricourt and Strasbourg. No rail line crosses the mountains for eighty miles along the ridge between these two passes. Plans are on foot to pierce the Vosges with tunnels in two places to bring Alsace in direct communication with France.

Strasbourg, the "City of Roads"

The geographical position of Alsace and Lorraine has largely determined their development of the people and their homeland. They have been cross-roads as well as border countries since Roman days. The Rhine, great traffic artery of Europe farther north, has always been a barrier where it skirts Alsace. Until recent years even part-year navigation was impossible along this stretch of the river. South of Strasbourg the Rhine had a network of courses, sprawling over a wide valley, and creating in flood time a broad region of morasses. The neighborhood of Strasbourg afforded the only good crossing place. This fact added to the importance of that city.

The low, unhealthy, useless valley of the Rhine along Alsace's eastern border, together with the barren nature of the bench-land inland from the river, condemned this eastern strip of Alsace to almost complete desertion. Even to-day this Rhineland plain is sparsely settled. The thriving cities of Alsace are situated in a zone from ten to twelve miles inland from the Rhine in the parallel valley of the Ill or slightly westward along the Vosges foothills. Even Strasbourg is not a true Rhine city. It was built on the Ill where the latter flows two or three miles west of the Rhine, but in recent years the city has grown eastward until it touches the larger stream.

At Strasbourg highways converge from across the Vosges hills, geographical factors which helped to promote the growth of an important city at this Rhine crossing. Strasbourg's name itself tells the story, for it means "City of Roads."

Alsace More German, Lorraine More French

Lorraine differs from Alsace both in environment and type of population. In fact there is little to group these two areas for political administration save that together they almost completely fill the gap between Germany and France. Lorraine is a plateau, cooler than the lower Alsatian plain and given over, so far as its agriculture is concerned, largely to pastures and cattle-raising.

Industry has claimed considerable areas of both Alsace and Lorraine from their old paths of agriculture. Textile factories are concentrated chiefly in southern Alsace and in some of the Vosges valleys. The predominant industry in Lorraine is metallurgy. Near the Luxemburg frontier are coal deposits and beds of iron ore, the latter the largest in Europe. The coal is in the famous

Of these, 10,000 are Jews, 35,000 Berbers and Arabs, and the rest consists of Maltese, Levantines, Italians, and other Europeans.

"The Italians and Maltese are officers, government officials, petty traders, artisans, and fishermen. The Jews are traders and artisans and especially smiths, as in Mohammedan countries smithing is regarded as an ignoble profession. A fair number of Jews live in the Jebel Gharian. This remote Jewish colony is of very old date. Probably the immigration of Jews into Tripolitania took place under the Roman rule, about 300 A. D.

"The Jews of Gharian live, like their Berber fellow-men, in underground houses, and their underground synagogue at the village of Tegrinna is one of the most interesting buildings in Tripolitania.

"Agriculture and cattle-rearing are the chief resources of Libya, but they flourish only in small patches. Fertile land we find on a narrow strip along the coast, in the region of Jebel Gharian and in Cyrenaica. The grain product of this region is barley. Barley is shipped from Cyrenaica, mainly to England, but the crops are subject to great variations.

"Another important product of the soil is esparto grass. Esparto, or Spanish grass, is a grass resembling the ornamental feather grass of gardens. It attains a height of three or four feet. On account of the tenacity of its leaves it has for centuries been employed for the making of ropes, sandals, caskets, and mats. It grows in the steppes and in the Jebel, as in Morocco and Algiers, but is inferior in quality to that of these countries. Esparto grass is mainly shipped to England, where it is now used in the manufacture of paper. It is brought to Tripoli or to Homs (a town on the coast eastward of the capital) by the Bedouins. In these places, which are the centers of this trade, European firms have erected machinery, where the grass is pressed in packs.

Greeks Come for Sponge Fishing

"The dates of Tripolitania are not first quality. Date palms grow along the coast and in Fezzan. At the end of the summer Bedouins of the Jefara go to Fezzan for the crop of dates and take to the Fezzanis in exchange barley and wheat.

"More important than agriculture is the cattle-rearing. It flourishes in Cyrenaica, from where cattle, sheep, and goats are exported by ship to Malta and overland to Egypt.

"The chief industries of Tripoli town are leather, metal work, the esparto-grass business and sponge fishing. Sponge fishing is of considerable importance, but it is almost entirely done by Greeks, who appear once a year with a flotilla in Tripolitan waters, and therefore this industry affects the country but little. In different places along the coast a certain number of salt pans are exploited by the Turkish Government."

Bulletin No. 4, May 10, 1926.

For Further Reading

Teachers who wish to use this Bulletin for project or reading assignment will find allied subject matter and illustrations in the following National Geographic Magazine articles: "Tripoli: The Country of the Ant Men," by Thomas H. Kearney, 11 illustrations, 1 half-page map, April, 1911, pp. 367–382. "Here and There in Northern Africa," by Frank Edward Johnson, 113 illustrations, January, 1914, pp. 1–132. "Tripoli, A Land of Little Promise," by Adolf L. Vischer, 6 illustrations, 1 half-page map, November, 1911, pp. 1035–1047. "Crossing the Untraversed Libyan Desert," by A. M. Hassanein Bey, September, 1924, 47 illustrations, pp. 233–277. "Tripolitania, Where Rome Resumes Sway," by Colonel Gordon Casserly, 28 illustrations, pp. 131–161, August, 1925.

Saar basin. All about this region are concentrated populations of miners and metal workers. Alsace has no iron or coal, but near Mulhausen it possesses potash deposits exceeded in value only by those of northern Germany. These two deposits constitute practically the world supply of this indispensable fertilizer ingredient.

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ALSATIAN DAUGHTERS IN TYPICAL COSTUME

Alsace isolation has led it to adopt many individual customs. The Alsatian costume like the Alsatian dialect draws more from German models than from French. Yet the Alsatian dialect would not be understood by a Berliner.